

Weekly Status & Information Report:
Week of February 14, 2005

Municipal Electrical Aggregation Legislation: Representatives of nine Montgomery and Prince George's County municipalities attended a press event on Tuesday in support of allowing municipalities to negotiate for lower electricity rates for their residents. Mayor Kathy Porter and Terry Seamens represented Takoma Park. Mayor Porter then represented Takoma Park at a public hearing on the legislation in Annapolis. A second hearing on the legislation is scheduled for March 1. (Community & Government Liaison)

Press Coverage: A Press Conference was held Tuesday Feb. 15th in Council Chambers regarding the proposed state legislation on Municipal Energy Aggregation. The 18 minute video has been replayed at the end of Council meetings this week. City TV staff also covered the CSAFE event on Monday with Lt. Gov. Steele. (City TV)

Speed Cameras Hearing - HB 443: State legislation is also being proposed for allowing Speed Cameras in Montgomery County. A hearing on this bill, HB 443, supported by the City Council, is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 22 at 1 p.m. in Annapolis. (Community & Government Liaison)

Long Branch Task Force Update (Ward 5): An Urban Land Institute Technical Assistance Panel did a two day study of the block bordered by Piney Branch Road, Flower Avenue and Arliss Street; the block that includes the Giant grocery store and Flower Theater. The panel studied the area, met with members of the Task Force, and developed a vision for the area for the Task Force to consider. Their proposal is to divide this "super-block" into four pedestrian-friendly blocks, reorient the retail, and add housing and structured parking. The vision would include a medical office building (being considered by Washington Adventist Hospital) and the building a new Giant grocery store in a slightly different location. In general, the ideas seemed to be well-received by Task Force members and will be the subject of further discussion. (Community & Government Liaison)

The Residents' Committee on Tax and Service Duplication Issues: The Residents' Committee on Tax and Service Duplication Issues (TASDI) has met eight times and is now preparing to give an interim report to the City Council on February 28. A final report, with findings and recommendations, is to be given to the Council in April. (Community & Government Liaison)

Jazz Band Brawl Coverage: City TV shot the Jazz Band Brawl on Sunday Feb. 13. Three great band performances will be edited and broadcast starting in March. (City TV)

Y.E.S. League: City TV will be taping the YES League championship basketball tournament to be held Friday Feb. 18th at Takoma Park Middle School. (City TV)

Email Services: This weekend Information Systems staff will be replacing the City's mail server. All email services will be interrupted from approximately 7:00 P.M. Sunday, February 20, 2005 to 12:00 P.M. Monday, February 21, 2005. (Information Systems)

Council Minutes: Draft minutes from January 18th have been redistributed. Additional sets of draft minutes, further into the 2005 year, will be provided by the first of the week. The Clerk's Office continues to work on eliminating the remaining backlog. (City Clerk's Office)

Noise Control Board Bylaws: Notice of the "proposed" Noise Control Board Bylaws Regulations will be published in the upcoming Newsletter. Please advise staff of any suggestions you may have within the comment period (expiration - March 21, 2005). (City Clerk's Office)

Infrastructure Bond Program: The City's application to the State Infrastructure Bond Program was submitted, by deadline. Follow-up on a few items is being satisfied. (City Clerk's Office)

Police Personnel Changes: Pam Taylor, currently Validations Coordinator, leaves the City employ today, after 10 years service in the police department. A city resident, she will become the Office Services Coordinator at the TPVFD. Danyelle Gallop, who has been a night dispatcher since May 1999, will succeed Taylor processing warrants and handling validations. One in-house City candidate for dispatch was tested and will proceed to an oral interview. (Police Department)

Crime Prevention Essay Contest (Ward 3): Ofc. Joe Butler, X Sector specialist of the COP Team, has initiated a crime prevention essay contest at Our Lady of Sorrows School (Ward 2). Ofc. Tina Smith attended a Circle Woods meeting. (Police Department)

Warrants/Arrests (Ward 6): Detectives have obtained a warrant for the arrest of four juveniles; charges relate to a summer armed robbery on University Blvd. (Ward 6) Additionally, a youth was arrested in D.C. on a Takoma Park warrant related to a 2004 armed carjacking and robbery in the 7600 block of New Hampshire (Ward 6); he is charged as an adult. (Police Department)

Traffic Enforcement (All Wards): Squads conducted speed enforcement using LIDAR on New Hampshire, University, Anne, Carroll, Flower, Garland and Piney Branch. Observation details were also conducted on Maple, Flower and Takoma, in addition to regular patrol enforcement of traffic. More than 80 traffic stops resulted in 64 citations. A one-hour observation post at 4th and Poplar netted more than 50 warnings and citations. The speed advisory trailer has been positioned on Carroll and on Philadelphia. (Police Department)